



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913  
PH (517) 373.1801 | FAX (517) 373.5801  
[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/hardiman/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/hardiman/)

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Contact: Alan Bolter  
517-373-1801

## **Sen. Hardiman looks to hear about life sciences in governor's State of the State address**

**LANSING** – With the governor reportedly focusing on jobs and the economy in her annual State of the State speech Tuesday, Sen. Bill Hardiman, R-Kentwood, said he would like to hear how she includes the life-sciences industry in her plans.

Hardiman recently joined his Senate colleagues in announcing a Republican plan to attract more research commercialization, increase so-called “angel investing” and promote lifelong learning opportunities. They announced their legislation at the Van Andel Institute in Grand Rapids in late January.

“To see our state prosper in the 21st century, we must have a diverse economy and the life-sciences have to be part of that,” Hardiman said. “We’ve seen great progress in strengthening Michigan’s commitment to the life sciences and I hope we’ll continue that.”

While Michigan has made major investments in life sciences over the past four years, the state is not truly reaping the economic benefits of that investment. A 2004 study ranked Michigan 37th in the nation in risk capital and infrastructure, just above states like Wyoming, Kansas, Iowa and Montana, whose economies rely heavily on natural resources.

Interested media outlets can arrange an interview with the senator after the governor’s address by calling his office.

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